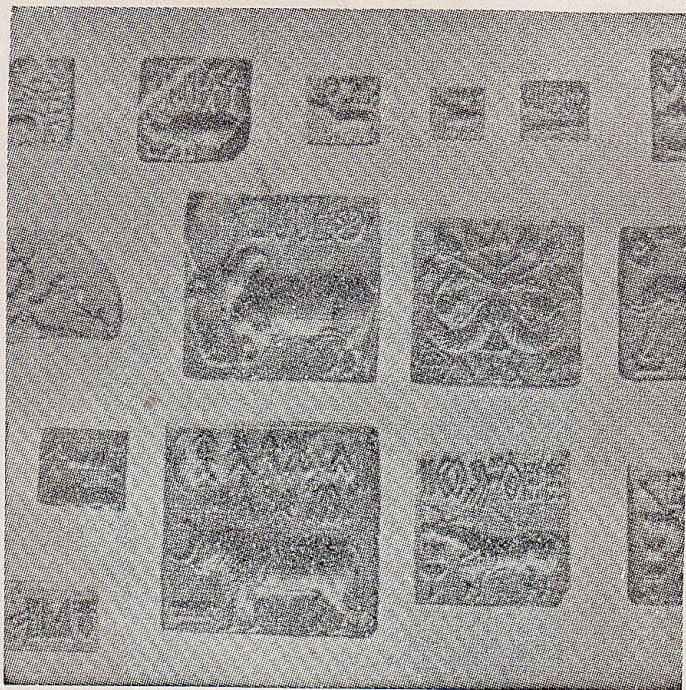


Pakistan

Moenjodaro



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The Engraved Seals



Moenjodaro pottery

MOENJODARO

(The mysterious city of the dead)

Although Pakistan is politically a new state, the territory which it comprises has been the cradle of a most remarkable and one of the earliest known civilisations of mankind. The buried remains of this pre-historic civilisation which flourished 5,000 years ago in the Indus Valley and along the coastal plains on its lower reaches, were first discovered by an officer of the Archaeological Department in 1922 while excavating a Buddhist stupa and monastery of the Kushan period. Later excavations and research work conducted by Sir John Marshal, the then Director-General of Archaeology and Sir Mortimer Wheeler, an archaeologist of world renown, have unfolded an amazing story about the customs, art, religion and administrative ability of these early inhabitants of the sub-continent.

The excavated remains of this buried city are situated on the western bank of the river Indus, about 6 miles from Moenjodaro railway station. The well-planned city, baked brick buildings, elaborate drainage system, soak pits for disposal of sewerage, a large state granary, public bath and the college of priests clearly indicate that it was either the capital town or a metropolis of great importance with a large population, enjoying a well organised civic and economic life. Figures of animals like rhinoceros, tigers and elephants on articles recovered from the site and the elaborate drainage system of the city bear testimony to the fact that during the hoary past, this region was within the range of monsoons, rainfall was plentiful and agricultural produce abundant.

Wheat, barley, sesamum, field peas and cotton appear to have been the main crops. The monsoons at some later period changed course and the area went arid. A brisk trade with foreign countries is indicated by the discovery of precious stones and other metallic objects not normally available in this region.

The men were of medium height with olive brown complexion, long head and face and black hair. A steatite figure of a nobleman dressed in embroidered robe recovered from amongst similar other relics throws some light on the dress in use. The trimmed beard and shaven upper lip show that razors were in use at the time. The women wore skirts and jewellery which consisted of bead necklaces and girdles, gold armlets, nose studs and ear-rings. They had a quaint style of dressing their hair in a fan shaped head-dress. Their children probably played with toy carts made of clay and terracotta figures of cattle and monkeys with adjustable heads or tails which could be moved with the help of a string. Dice throwing appears to have been a popular indoor game.

A large number of graded weights and measures of different sizes and in perfect uniformity recovered from the site show that the people had a strong government and the standardisation of weights and measures was strictly enforced. Iron was probably unknown to the people as the articles which have been found are made of lead, silver, copper or bronze and consist of vessels, dishes, saw swords, spear blades, daggers, knives and razors. A large number of seals bearing inscriptions in strange characters have been unearthed. The pottery discovered consists of a large variety of jars of different shapes and sizes, plain as well as of painted

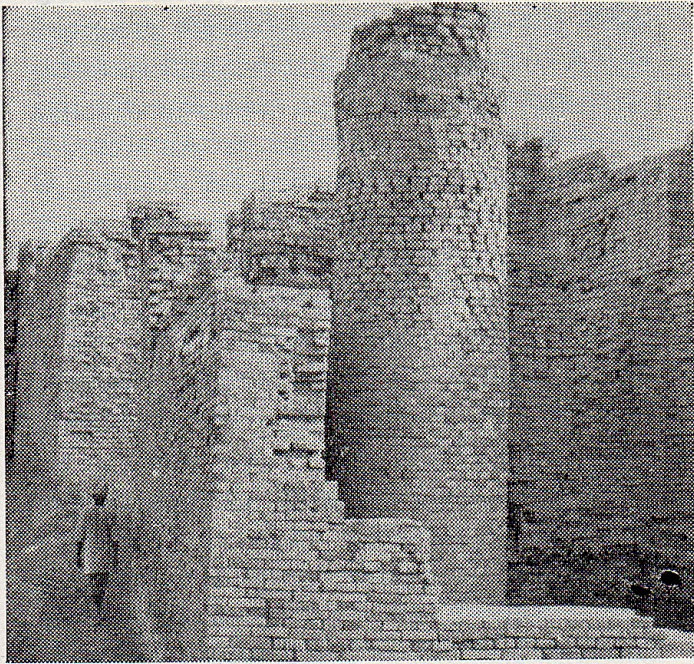
ring bases and tiny receptacles for holding toilet articles. All these relics are preserved at the museums at Moenjodaro and Karachi.

No definite clue has yet been found about the identity of the inhabitants. Anthropologists, however, maintain that the majority of the population belonged to the same stock which is associated with the earliest agricultural settlements found almost everywhere in Central Asia. Their pictographic script, several examples of which exist on terracotta pots and fine wrought seals, has likewise not been deciphered so far.

How this great metropolis came to its tragic end, is yet another enigma. All that we know from the human skeletons excavated is that the inhabitants were one day ruthlessly murdered by some invading hordes. From the fragmentary evidence in the Hindu Scripture 'Rigveda' wherein Indra, the Aryan War God, has been referred to as the fort destroyer, it is surmised that the city was invaded by Aryans from the north. The inhabitants were caught unawares in their homes, out in the streets and on the wells drawing water and were mercilessly slain.

The excavated city lies in an irregular series of mounds and comprises two parts, the lower towards the east with dwelling houses and shops and the upper towards the west with some important buildings including the Great Bath, the College of Priests, a pillared hall and the Buddhist stupa which was constructed by Buddhist priests long after the destruction of the city. There are also remnants of an impressive fortified citadel which stood on a raised platform.

The city is well planned with 430 feet wide streets crossed by other similar streets at right angles. The dwelling houses of the well-to-do



An Excavated Well

people generally seem to have consisted of a courtyard with access through a side alley instead of the main street, a watchman's room, living rooms of different sizes including kitchen and bath room. The houses had paved floors, drains which opened into the street and chutes for disposal of rubbish which had also been provided through the walls and opened into rectangular bins outside and were probably regularly cleaned by a municipal squad.

On seeing all these elaborate arrangements an eminent archaeologist has rightly remarked, "It is clear that the city is no chance growth. It is drilled and regimented by a civic authority whose will is law."

PLACES OF INTEREST

Stupa Mound

Situated on the western outskirts of the city are the remains of a Buddhist stupa and a mo-

nastery of the Kushan period, which rises to a height of 72 feet above the surrounding area. From the summit of the stupa mound an interesting panoramic view of the city and the Indus river can be enjoyed. The stupa is built in the usual style with a spacious assembly hall and monastic cells around it. Several hoards of coins belonging to the period 140-173 A.D. were recovered from this area.

College of Priests

Immediately to the west of the stupa mound across the main street called the 'Divinity Street' lie the remains of a once imposing structure with a spacious hall and complicated arrangement of apartments. From its general appearance and owing to its proximity to the Great Bath, which was probably a sacred bathing pool, it has been surmised that it was a College of the Priests, in a part of which the Chief Priest resided.



The Stupa Mound

Great Bath

These are the most imposing structural remains in this area and consist of an open quadrangle with verandahs on its four sides, galleries and rooms at the back, a group of halls on the north and a large bathing pool—39 feet long, 23 feet wide and nearly 8 feet deep—in the centre. A flight of steps is provided at each end of the bathing pool for such persons who may find it too deep for bathing purposes. Great care has been taken to make its walls water-tight and a large covered drain is provided for discharging waste water. The bathing pool was probably filled from a well in chamber 16. A little away to its north are the remains of some rows of bath-rooms which also belong to the same establishment.

To the west of the swimming pool are the remains of the Great Granary.

Pillared Hall

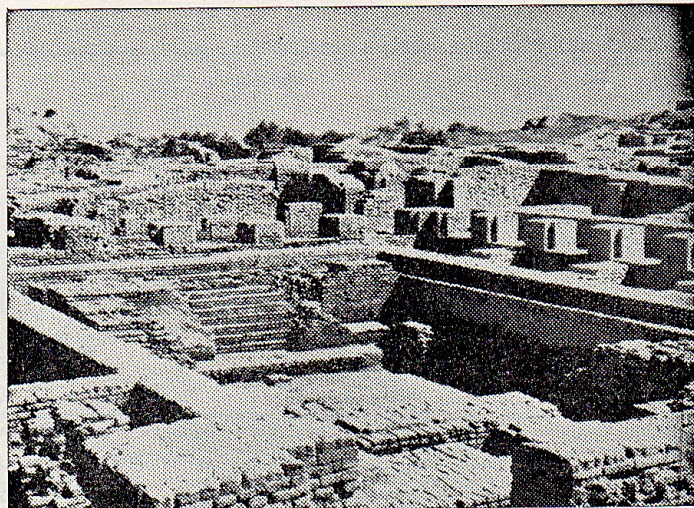
Remains of a spacious hall supported on 20 burnt brick pillars also lie in the vicinity of the Great Bath. It was probably used as an assembly chamber for the monks.

Watch Towers

At the extreme southern corner of the area are a group of 10 feet high defensive towers or bastions with a parapet wall which formed a part of the fortifications of the citadel.

H.R. Area

Remains of the dwelling houses of the well-to-do people lie in this area which is approached by following the main road lying to the east of the stupa mound, now called east street, and is entered by the first street. In a house in this area an interesting pottery kiln—7 feet long, 5 feet wide and $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high—has been discovered. The elaborate drainage system and soak-pits for disposal of sewerage in this area are remarkable.



The Great Bath

V.S. Area

This area also comprises remains of dwelling houses of the well-to-do people with large courts, living rooms, bath rooms, elaborate drainage system and some interesting wells. Some of the houses here have drain pipes descending from upper storeys.

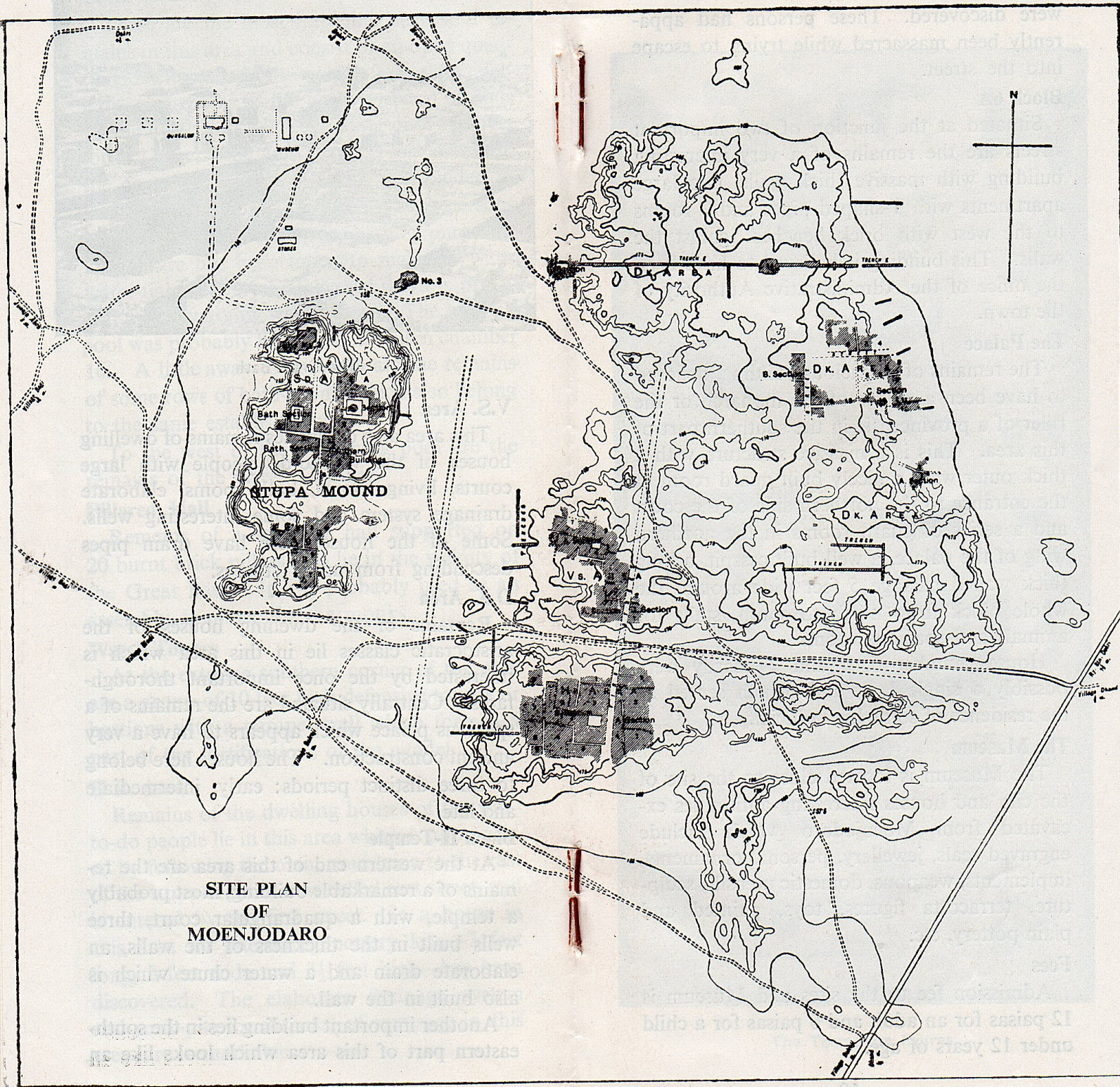
D.K. Area

Remains of the dwelling houses of the aristocratic classes lie in this area which is interested by the once important thoroughfares. Centrally situated are the remains of a spacious palace which appears to have a very ancient construction. The houses here belong to three distinct periods: early, intermediate and late.

Block II-Temple

At the western end of this area are the remains of a remarkable building, most probably a temple, with a quadrangular court, three wells built in the thickness of the walls, an elaborate drain and a water chute which is also built in the wall.

Another important building lies in the south-eastern part of this area which looks like an



SITE PLAN
OF
MOENJODARO

inn, in a room of which four human skeletons were discovered. These persons had apparently been massacred while trying to escape into the street.

Block 6A

Situated at the junction of two important streets are the remains of a very interesting building with massive thick walls, two large apartments with T-shaped pipes and 3 rooms to the west with brick benches against the walls. This building is believed to have been the office of the Administrative Authority of the town.

The Palace

The remains of a spacious building, believed to have been a palace of the monarch or the ruler of a province, lie in the southern part of this area. This is a massive structure with a thick outer wall, a nicely built guard room at the entrance to the northern side of the court and a series of guard rooms in the northern wing of the palace, a well built cesspit, a long thick walled passage 5 feet wide around the whole block from north to south, stalls for animals and spacious rooms.

Houses number 5, 6 and 7 nearby were possibly a single large unit which served as the residence of some high official.

The Museum

The Museum is located close to the site of the city and houses interesting antiquities excavated from Moenjodaro which include engraved seals, jewellery, personal ornaments, implements, weapons, domestic utensils, sculpture, terracotta figures, toys, painted and plain pottery, etc.

Fees

Admission fee to the sites and Museum is 12 paisas for an adult and 6 paisas for a child under 12 years of age.



The Terracotta figures

APPROACH

Moenjodaro is accessible by road from Moenjodaro railway station. Regular daily train services from Karachi, Quetta and Rohri to Moenjodaro are available.

It is also accessible by road from Sukkur (76 miles) and by the canal bank road, which can be used on obtaining a permit from the Executive Engineer, Barrage Division, Sukkur, against payment of Rs. 12.00 per taxi for a round trip. Taxis are easily available at Sukkur and the charges are approximately Rs. 150 for the return trip.

It is also accessible by Air. The Airfield is only 100 yards from the site. The Karachi Aero Club Ltd. provides chartered Air Service to the site.

Local Transport

Only tongas (horse-drawn vehicles) are available at Moenjodaro railway station which can be hired for a trip to the sites. The charges are 6 to 8 rupees for the entire trip. Taxis are, however, available at Larkana, the District Headquarters (24 miles), and have to be specially arranged in advance.

Accommodation

The sites and the Museum can be visited in a day but for those who like to spend more time, a Dak Bungalow of the Archaeological Department is available. It is situated near the Museum. The charges are Rs. 2.50 per person per diem for accommodation only. Beddings are not provided. The care-taker provides meals to order.

General Information

- (a) SITUATION : Nearly 27 deg. 32' N and 68 deg. 16'E, about 9 miles from Moenjodaro railway station on the western bank of river Indus.
- (b) AREA : The excavated area is nearly 240 acres.
- (c) CLIMATE : Hot in summer and cold in winter. Max. temperature in summer nearly 115 deg. F. Min. temperature in winter nearly 43 deg. F.
- (d) RAINFALL : Nearly 3 inches annually.
- (e) LANGUAGE : The principal local language is Sindhi but staff at railway station and the museum at Moenjodaro include English-speaking members who will willingly guide the visitors.
- (f) BEST SEASON FOR VISIT : November to March.
- (g) TYPE OF CLOTHING REQUIRED : Tropical in summer and woollen in winter.

Road Routes

From	Miles	Route	Road condition
Karachi	412	0, Karachi—63, Thatta—126, Hyderabad—312, Khairpur—332, Sukkur—412, Moenjodaro.	Motorable.
Peshawar (Via Lahore and Sukkur)	696	0, Peshawar Cantt.—105, Rawalpindi—274, Lahore—367, Montgomery—488, Multan—606, Sukkur—696, Moenjodaro.	Motorable.
Sukkur (Via Shikarpur)	77	0, Sukkur—26, Shikarpur—53, Larkana —77, Moenjodaro.	Motorable but bad at some places.
Sukkur (Via Canal Bank).	80	Direct Route.	Motorable.

Rail Connections From	Miles	Trains	Frequency	Single Journey Fares		
				1st Class Rs.	2nd Class Rs.	3rd Class Rs.
Karachi City	..	Bolan Mail & Passenger	Daily.	61.96	30.31	8.93
Peshawar Cantt.	267					
(i) Via Campbellpur, Shershah & Rohri.	712	Thal Fast Passenger/Khyber Mail/Passenger.	"	141.31	69.09	20.43
(ii) Via Lahore & Rohri	822	Khyber Mail/Passenger & Karachi Express/Passenger.	"	160.49	78.46	26.63
Lahore	..	"	"	110.38	53.97	17.43
Sukkur	..	251/214 Passenger & 217/220 Passenger.	"	16.47	8.10	2.65
Quetta	269	Bolan Mail	"	62.43	30.54	8.99
Karachi Aero Club, Country Club Road. Phone : 40697.	197	Cessna Aircraft	To be chartered in advance.	Rs. 750 for return trip.		

Notes

- (a) First class air-conditioned accommodation is available by the following trains:
- (i) Khyber Mail *ex*-Peshawar to Karachi *via* Lahore and Rohri—daily.
- (ii) Bolan Mail *ex*-Karachi to Quetta *via* Larkana—daily.
- (b) The inter and third class fares are the combined mail or express and ordinary fares.
- (c) While travelling from stations north of Rohri to Moenjodaro, the train will have to be changed at Rohri. The railway waiting rooms and refreshment rooms at Rohri can be used by railway passengers for a short stay.
- (d) Following taxes are recovered from each passenger in addition to the Railway fares given on page 14:

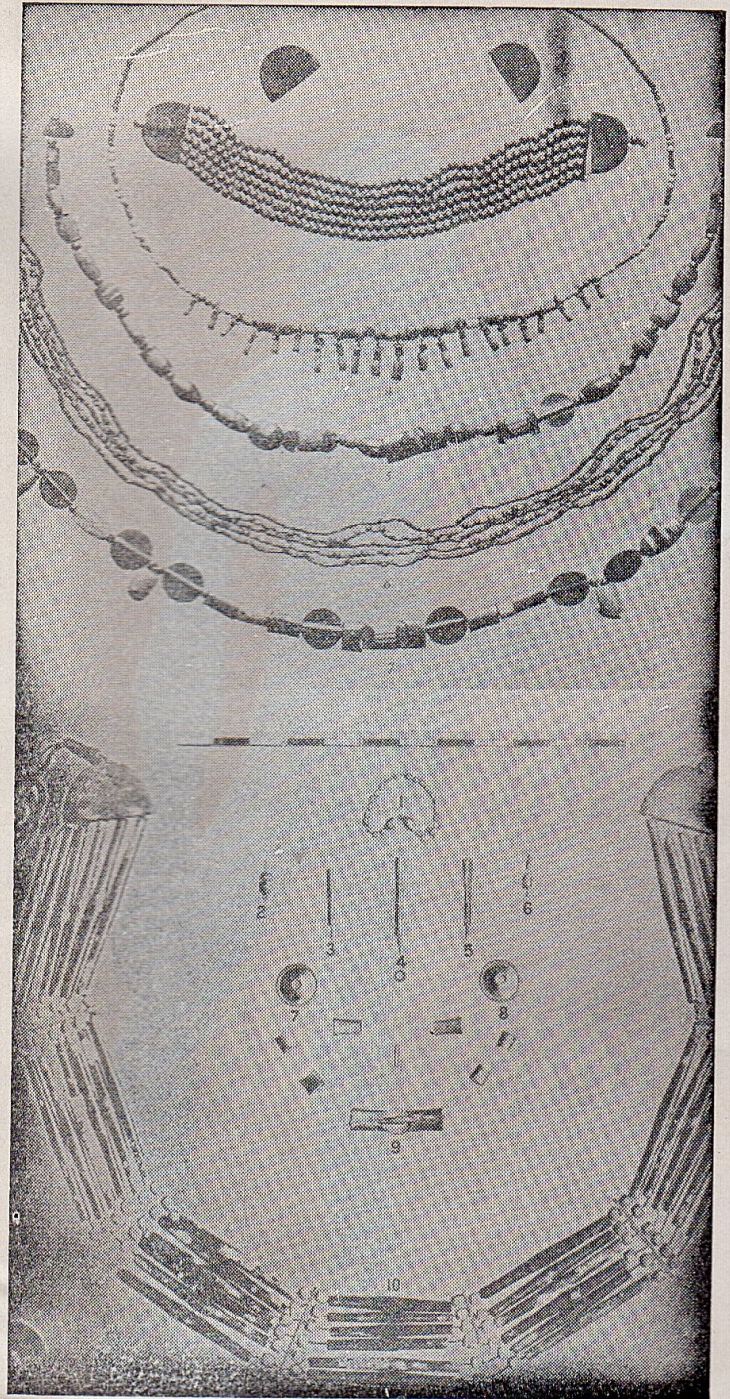
	Re.
First class	0.50
Second class	0.25
Inter class	0.12
Third class	0.06

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

Tourist Offices & Counters

	Phone Nos.
Karachi	
Club Road	50119
Karachi Airport	49241
West Wharf	227330
Hotel Karachi Intercontinental.	51027

		Phone Nos.
Lahore	5, Transport House, Egerton Road. Lahore Airport	67962 —
Rawalpindi	Rawalpindi Club Annexe, The Mall.	4008
Murree	The Mall	182
Peshawar	1, Kitchner Road	2428
Saidu Sharif (Swat)	Swat Hotel	—
Abbottabad	Rehmat Manzil, Havelian Road.	234
Gilgit	Sub-Regional Tourist Office.	—
Dacca	14/2, Topkhana Road	6206
Chittagong	Yasmeen Palace, Jubilee Road.	4848
Kaptai	Sub-Regional Tourist Office, Old Utah, Recreation Hall.	—
Cox's Bazar	Sub-Regional Tourist Office.	46



Gold, Silver and Bead Ornaments

Pakistan



Moenjodaro